



House of Representatives

File No. 89

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

(Reprint of File No. 21)

Substitute House Bill No. 6232
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
March 18, 2011

AN ACT PERMITTING SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 38a-371 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2011*):

4 (f) Upon receipt of a signed written request or a request by
5 electronic mail that includes an electronic signature for suspension
6 from the owner of a registered private passenger motor vehicle stating
7 that such vehicle will not be operated upon any highway during a
8 period of not less than thirty consecutive days, the insurer of such
9 vehicle shall suspend, to the extent requested by the owner, insurance
10 coverage afforded under the policy providing the security required by
11 sections 38a-363 to 38a-388, inclusive, for such vehicle until notified by
12 the owner that the coverage should be reinstated. During the period of
13 suspension only, the provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of
14 this section shall not apply with respect to such vehicle, provided, if
15 such vehicle is operated upon any highway by or with the permission

16 of the owner during the period of suspension, the provisions of said
17 subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section, shall thereupon become
18 applicable. As used in this subsection, "highway" shall be defined as in
19 section 14-1. This subsection shall not apply to a motor vehicle for
20 which proof of financial responsibility is required under the provisions
21 of sections 14-112 to 14-133, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2011	38a-371(f)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as this bill relates only to the interactions between individuals and their automobile insurer.

House "A" made an additional change to the automobile suspension procedures. There is no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6232 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT PERMITTING SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the owner of a private passenger motor vehicle to request the suspension of his or her automobile insurance policy (1) by electronic mail that includes an electronic signature or (2) in a signed writing. Under current law, a request must be submitted in writing to the insurer. The request must state that the vehicle will not be operated for at least 30 consecutive days. During a period of suspension, the law requiring that a vehicle have insurance will not apply as long as the vehicle is not operated.

*House Amendment "A" requires a request by electronic mail to include an electronic signature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Auto Insurance Requirement***

A person who wants to receive or retain a driver's license or motor vehicle registration in Connecticut must provide and continuously maintain a minimum amount of financial security (e.g., insurance), including liability coverage. Liability insurance covers bodily injury to other people and property damage caused by a driver's negligence. The law requires a minimum of (1) \$20,000 per person and \$40,000 per accident for bodily injury liability and (2) \$10,000 per accident for property damage liability (CGS §§ 38a-371, 38a-335, 14-112).

Private Passenger Motor Vehicle

Under insurance law, “private passenger motor vehicle” excludes a motorcycle or motor vehicle used as a public or livery conveyance (CGS § 38a-363(e)). But it includes a:

1. private passenger-type automobile;
2. station wagon-type automobile;
3. camper-type motor vehicle;
4. high-mileage-type motor vehicle;
5. truck-type motor vehicle with a load capacity of 1,500 pounds or less, registered as a passenger motor vehicle or passenger and commercial (combination) motor vehicle, or used for farming; and
6. vehicle with a commercial registration.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 4 (02/10/2011)